

Appln No. 10/760259
Amdt Dated: October 06, 2006
Response to Office Action of August 22, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated August 22, 2006. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments.

Amendments

Claims 13 to 16 have been amended. The amendments address the minor omissions and typographical errors identified by the Examiner. The amendments to claim 13 have also highlighted the features distinguishing the present invention from the cited references.

Accordingly, the amendments do not add any new matter.

Claims - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 13 to 14 stand rejected as obvious in light of US 6,199,977 to Komplin et al. in view of US 6,585,348 to Reed et al.

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the feature of the shelf previously defined in claim 14. As shown in Figure 21 – 27, the shelf in the elongate recess 89 is inclined to the direction of cartridge insertion. As the user positions the cartridge into the recess, the shelf acts as a guide to direct it to the correct position, and in particular, to engage the resilient members. Skilled workers will appreciate that the incline of the shelf reduces any hydrostatic shocks within the ink when the cartridge first touches the inside walls of the recess. Were the shelf to be transverse to the direction of insertion, the engagement between the cartridge and the recess would be far more abrupt and jarring to the ink.

Amended claim 13 defines the spaced positioning of the resilient members for biasing the inkjet cartridge against the retainer. As discussed on page 23 of the description, the resilient members on the cradle will cushion any shock loading on the cartridge as it is loaded into the printer. Shock loading the cartridge can de-prime the ink from some of the nozzles in the printhead. Pagewidth printheads are particularly prone to this as the longitudinal axis of

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the cartridge can be tilted as it is inserted into the cradle. This raises the hydrostatic ink pressure in the lowermost nozzles well above that of the upper nozzles. The additional hydrostatic pressure and the shock loading can combine to force ink from some nozzles, and bleed onto the capping surface or micro-flood the nozzle plate. Furthermore, it is one or other of the end portions of the cartridge that are likely to contact the cradle first. This initial contact is usually associated with the highest single shock load to the cartridge during user insertion of it into the cradle. The combination of the guiding inclined shelf surface and the spaced resilient members cushion the initial contact while also providing an arrangement that accurately and securely retains the cartridge within the cradle.

In Komplin, the problem of hydrostatic shocks causing micro-floods on the nozzle plate does not exist. The cartridge 12 does not have a printhead and so there are no nozzles that are retaining ink by surface tension alone. Accordingly, the cartridge bears on a flat surface 18 at it engages the printer carriage 10. Likewise, Reed does not provide an inclined guide shelf for the cartridge 80a. It is directed to cleaning the nozzle plate with the transfer roller that carries ink flooding, dried ink and paper dust to a sump

Accordingly, a cradle having the combination of elements defined by claim 13 has not been taught or suggested by Komplin or Reed. It follows that they fail to support a §103 rejection of claims 13 or 14.

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected as obvious in light of Komplin in view of Reed, in further view of US 6,502,917 to Shinada et al. Shinada also fails to disclose an inclined shelf guiding the insertion of the cartridge. Pursuant to the above, Komplin, Reed and Shinada do not anticipate claims 15 or 16 by virtue of their dependence from claims 13 and 14.

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Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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